

Appl. No. 10/609,081
Resp. of 03/29/05

Amendments to the Claims:

Please amend the claims as indicated. This listing of claims will replace all prior versions and listings of claims in the application:

Listing of claims:

1-15. (cancelled without prejudice)

16-18 (cancelled)

19. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 18~~ An apparatus for filling a plurality of reactor tubes contained in a reactor vessel with at least one catalyst, comprising:

a hopper;

a catalyst moving device mounted below the hopper wherein the catalyst moving device comprises a trough having one open end and a vibrating motor attached to the trough;

a catalyst dispenser mounted below the catalyst moving device;

a scale attached to the catalyst dispenser;

a computer in communication with the scale, the catalyst moving device and with the catalyst dispenser; and

a gate mechanism mounted over the open end of the trough and in communication with the computer wherein the gate mechanism has a brush.

20. (cancelled)

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21. (currently amended) ~~The apparatus according to claim 20~~ An apparatus for filling a plurality of reactor tubes contained in a reactor vessel with at least one catalyst, comprising:

a hopper;

a catalyst moving device mounted below the hopper wherein the catalyst moving device comprises a trough having one open end and a vibrating motor attached to the trough;

a catalyst dispenser mounted below the catalyst moving device;

a scale attached to the catalyst dispenser; and

a computer in communication with the scale, the catalyst moving device and with the catalyst dispenser;

a gate mechanism mounted over the open end of the trough and in communication with the computer wherein the gate mechanism has a brush;

a second hopper;

a second trough mounted below the second hopper, the second trough having one open end;

a second vibrating motor attached to the second trough;

a second gate mechanism mounted over the open end of the second trough wherein the second gate mechanism has a second brush;

a second catalyst dispenser mounted below the second trough and the second gate mechanism;

a second scale attached to the catalyst dispenser; and

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wherein the computer is in communication with the second scale, the second vibrating motor and the second gate mechanism.

22. (currently amended) The apparatus according to claim 196 wherein the catalyst dispenser includes a door mechanism.

23. (new) The apparatus according to claim 21 wherein the catalyst dispenser includes a door mechanism and wherein the second catalyst dispenser includes a second door mechanism.